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SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Letter dated 22 July 1991 from the Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the Permanent Missions to the United Nations of the States members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the joint communiqué of the twenty-fourth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting, issued at Kuala Lumpur on 20 July 1991 (see annex).

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* A/46/150.

I should be grateful if you could arrange to have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under items 24, 33, 35, 37, 68, 78, 82 and 98 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Sedfrey A. ORDONEZ
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Joint communiqué of the twenty-fourth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting issued at Kuala Lumpur on 20 July 1991

Introduction

1. The twenty-fourth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting was held at Kuala Lumpur on 19 and 20 July 1991. The meeting was formally opened by the Honourable Dato' Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia.

2. The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam; His Excellency Mr. Ali Alatas, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia; His Excellency Datuk Abdullah bin Ahmad Badawi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Malaysia; His Excellency Mr. Raul S. Manglapus, Secretary for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines; His Excellency Mr. Wong Kan Seng, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Singapore; His Excellency Mr. Arsa Sarasin, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Thailand, and their respective delegations.

3. His Excellency Mr. Rusli Noor, Secretary-General of the ASEAN secretariat, and his staff were also present.

4. His Excellency Sir Michael Somare, GCMG, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of Papua New Guinea, attended the open session as an observer.

5. His Excellency Mr. Yuri Maslyukov, Deputy Prime Minister of the Soviet Union, and His Excellency Mr. Qian Qichen, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, attended the open session as guests of the Government of Malaysia.

6. His Excellency Datuk Abdullah bin Ahmad Badawi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Malaysia, chaired the Meeting. His Excellency Mr. Raul S. Manglapus, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines, was elected Vice-Chairman.

OPENING ADDRESS

7. In his opening address, the Honourable Dato' Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia, stated that, in the ASEAN experience, member countries had learnt that both at the national and regional levels, peace and security, democracy and freedom as well as stability were possible and sustainable only when the people were free from economic deprivation and had a stake in the national life. He disagreed, however, that democracy had only one definition or that political systems qualified as democratic only when they measured up to certain particular yardsticks. Therefore, when the issue of human rights was linked to trade, investment and finance, ASEAN could not but view it as added conditionalities and protectionism by other means. On

the question of security, the Prime Minister said it was from a strong ASEAN base that one should approach the question of peace and security of the immediate wider environment in the Asia-Pacific region. ASEAN had already made its mark in terms of geopolitics. It is equally important that ASEAN should be made relevant in terms of geostrategy. Regionalism in South-East Asia had to be brought to a higher plane from the process of communication and consultation to that of conscious and organized interdependence between all the States of the region.

8. The Prime Minister emphasized that at the present time of uncertain global economic developments brought about by trade disputes between the economic super-Powers, rising protectionism and closed regionalism, ASEAN and the other East Asian countries must act in concert to maintain an open global trading system. He felt that a strong and united ASEAN could bring the East Asia economic group into shape for the benefit of all. He stressed that ASEAN must proceed to a higher plane of cooperation, collective action and self-reliance in order to have an effective voice in the international, interregional and multilateral forums. He called upon ASEAN member States to exercise collective will to achieve the objectives of greater trade liberalization and integration of the ASEAN economies. He supported the recent proposal made by His Excellency the Prime Minister of Thailand for the establishment of a free trade area by the turn of the century. He believed in the need for a strong and effective ASEAN secretariat to bring about an increase in the substance of ASEAN economic cooperation.

INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL SITUATION

9. The Foreign Ministers had an extensive exchange of views on the latest international developments. They noted that the emerging strategic relationships that evolved following the end of the Cold War and their impact were as yet unclear. This was further blurred by evolving international economic alignments as well as efforts to make environmental concerns and human rights considerations new conditionalities in development assistance and inter-State relations.

10. The Foreign Ministers welcomed the positive developments in Central and Eastern Europe, which had contributed to the improvement of the political and economic climate, particularly in Europe. The Foreign Ministers noted with concern the instability prevailing in the region and urged that differences be resolved peacefully. They also noted that Central and Eastern European countries required assistance in their reform and reconstruction efforts. In recognizing those needs, they expressed the hope that the developed countries would maintain their interest and continue to make available new and additional resources to developing countries and, in particular, to the countries in South-East Asia.

11. The Foreign Ministers noted that the evolving international environment had implications for the rapidly developing East Asia region. They welcomed the generally improving situation in the broader Asia-Pacific region, but noted that there remained areas and issues that required attention.

12. The Foreign Ministers took note of the increasing interest in issues relating to peace and security in the region. They were of the view that the Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality in South-East Asia (ZOPFAN), the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in South-East Asia and the PMC (Post-Ministerial Conferences) process were appropriate bases for addressing the regional peace and security issues in the 1990s.

13. The Foreign Ministers reiterated that ASEAN, in responding to the challenges of the 1990s, should be more dynamic and forward-looking. ASEAN should strengthen itself and intensify intraregional cooperation. They expressed the hope that the non-ASEAN South-East Asian nations could find it possible to participate in the activities of the region. They also recognized that ASEAN and other countries in the East Asia region and the broader Asia-Pacific region should engage in regular constructive consultations.

14. In this connection, the Foreign Ministers noted the report of the Secretary for Foreign Affairs of the Philippines on the seminar on the theme "ASEAN and the Asia-Pacific Region: Prospects for Security Cooperation in the 1990s", which was organized by his Department and held at Manila from 5 to 7 June 1991, with the participation of senior experts from the government and academic sectors of ASEAN and a number of other countries. The Foreign Ministers further noted that a second seminar on the same theme, to be organized by the International Study Centre, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, would be held in Thailand in November 1991, and that the objective of the two seminars was to provide an opportunity for a frank and informal discussion by recognized experts, which could be of interest to Governments, on the requirements of security and stability in the Asia-Pacific region, with a special focus on South-East Asia, during the present decade and beyond. The Foreign Ministers regarded those initiatives as useful and constructive building blocks for the enhancement of regional security.

15. The Foreign Ministers exchanged views on the issue of human rights and noted with concern its tendentious application in inter-State relations. They agreed that while human rights were universal in character, implementation in the national context should remain within the competence and responsibility of each country, having regard for the complex variety of economic, social and cultural realities. They emphasized that the international application of human rights could not be narrow and selective, nor should it violate the sovereignty of nations.

CAMBODIA

16. The Foreign Ministers reviewed the latest developments regarding the situation in Cambodia and the continuing efforts within the negotiating process of the Paris Conference of Cambodia (PCC), as well as the efforts of all concerned countries and, in particular, the Cambodian parties, to achieve a comprehensive political settlement. They reiterated their support for the continuing efforts of the Co-Chairmen of PCC to reconvene, at the earliest possible date, the Paris Conference on Cambodia with a view to finalizing the draft agreements.

17. The Foreign Ministers welcomed the framework document on a comprehensive political settlement agreed to by the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council in August 1990. The Foreign Ministers noted with satisfaction the agreement achieved by the Cambodian parties at the Jakarta Informal Meeting on 10 September 1990 to the framework document in its entirety as the basis for settling the Cambodian conflict as well as the establishment of the Supreme National Council (SNC) of Cambodia.

18. The Foreign Ministers reiterated their full support for the said framework document unanimously endorsed by the United Nations Security Council in its resolution 668 (1990) of 20 September 1990 and by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution 45/3 of 15 October 1990. The framework document constituted a major contribution and had become the basis for the efforts to achieve a comprehensive political settlement of the Cambodian question.

19. They expressed satisfaction with the elaboration of the framework document into the draft agreements on a comprehensive political settlement by the Co-Chairmen of PCC and the five permanent members of the Security Council at the Paris meeting, held from 23 to 26 November 1990. They noted that SNC had agreed to most of the fundamental points of the draft agreements at its meeting with the Co-Chairmen of PCC. However, they expressed concern that the involved parties were still far apart on some aspects of the remaining issues pertaining to military arrangements, genocide and the role of the United Nations during the transitional period.

20. The Foreign Ministers welcomed His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk's initiative in convening and presiding over the meeting of SNC at Pattaya from 24 to 26 June 1991. They also welcomed the final communiqué of the meeting, in particular, the decision to set up the SNC headquarters at Phnom Penh, as well as the agreements on the unlimited cease-fire and cessation of foreign arms supply. They urged SNC to work out as soon as possible with the United Nations the modalities for the control and monitoring of the cease-fire and the cessation of foreign arms supply.

21. The Foreign Ministers reemphasized the fundamental right of Cambodians to choose their own government in free and fair elections supervised by the United Nations. They reiterated that human rights in Cambodia should be fully protected. They also expressed the view that any settlement should prevent the return to the genocidal practices and policies of the past and that no Cambodian party should be allowed to seize or retain power through force of arms.

22. They recorded their appreciation to His Excellency Mr. Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the United Nations Secretary-General, for his valuable efforts in finding a comprehensive political settlement to the Cambodian problem. They also expressed their thanks to His Excellency Mr. Rafeeuddin Ahmed, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs in South-East Asia, and welcomed his presence at the twenty-fourth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting.

INDOCHINESE ASYLUM SEEKERS

23. The Foreign Ministers expressed their deep concern that, notwithstanding two years of efforts in implementing the Comprehensive Plan of Action (CPA), countries of temporary refuge (CTR) were no nearer to a durable solution of the problem of the Vietnamese boat people. The total number of Vietnamese boat people in camps of the affected CTR remained as high as in 1979.

24. The Foreign Ministers reiterated their commitment to the objectives of CPA and reaffirmed the importance of a balanced and coordinated implementation of the plan that must lead to the resettlement of all refugees in third countries and repatriation of non-refugees to Viet Nam within the time-frame agreed to at the 1989 International Conference on Indochinese Refugees at Geneva.

25. The Foreign Ministers noted with satisfaction the resettlement of the pre-cut-off-date arrivals, which had exceeded the targets set for the first two years of CPA's implementation as well as the expansion of the orderly departure programme. In this connection, they expressed their deep appreciation to all parties concerned for their cooperation.

26. While acknowledging the significant decline in recent months in the arrivals of the Vietnamese boat people to ASEAN countries concerned, the Foreign Ministers urged Viet Nam to tighten measures to check the clandestine departures of its people to avoid a reversal of the situation.

27. The Foreign Ministers reiterated their position that the viability of CPA required the urgent resolution of the fundamental question of repatriation to Viet Nam of all boat people who were determined to be non-refugees. In that connection, they expressed their deep concern at the increasing number of that category of people who had refused repatriation. The Foreign Ministers emphasized that the continuation of such a situation was unacceptable. In recalling the Jakarta Joint Statement of 24 July 1990 by the ASEAN Foreign Ministers on the problem of the Vietnamese boat people, they urged that internationally managed centres in Viet Nam for non-refugees, as envisaged in CPA, be established as an effective intermediate solution to involuntary repatriation.

28. The Foreign Ministers expressed their appreciation for the role played by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in supporting international efforts to solve the problem and welcomed his readiness to monitor all non-refugees back to Viet Nam, regardless of their mode of return. In this connection, they called on the international community to provide UNHCR with the necessary financial resources for those purposes.

MIDDLE EAST

29. The Foreign Ministers reviewed the situation in the Middle East in t post-Gulf War period. They welcomed the restoration of the legitimate Government of Kuwait and reaffirmed their commitment to the sovereignty, and independence and territorial integrity of all countries in the region.

30. The Foreign Ministers emphasized that the immediate post-war period an opportune moment to address the fundamental causes of instability with the region, in particular the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian question. They took note of the efforts of the United States in promotin peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian question. They reaffirmed their support for the convening of an internat conference under the auspices of the United Nations to work out a peace settlement. In this connection, they stressed the need to adhere to the Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973), which would uphol right to security of all States in the region, including that of Israel, recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination with all that this implied, in particul their right to a homeland.

31. The Foreign Ministers deplored the continuing establishment of illeg Israeli settlements in the occupied territories in defiance of Security Council resolutions.

SOUTH AFRICA

32. The Foreign Ministers reiterated their total rejection of the system apartheid and reaffirmed their commitment to its complete elimination so a new, non-racist, united and democratic society could be built in its pl While welcoming the repeal of apartheid legislations in South Africa, they stressed that those reforms must in reality lead to the attainment by the black majority population of South Africa of all political, economic and social rights enjoyed by the whites, to be guaranteed within the framework a new constitution of South Africa.

33. The Foreign Ministers noted with concern the continuing inter-faction violence in South Africa, which had impeded the process of working towards drafting of a new non-racist and democratic constitution. They called on regime of South Africa to fulfil its responsibilities in maintaining law a order and urged leaders of all parties to restrain their followers and pro an atmosphere of political tolerance.

34. Recognizing the positive developments taking place in South Africa, t were of the view that the phased lifting of sanctions should be commensura with progress towards the achievement of irreversible change and towards t attainment of an apartheid-free South Africa.

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ISSUES

35. The Foreign Ministers reviewed the international economic situation. They expressed their concern at the present global economic slowdown and the adverse impact it had on the trade and growth of developing countries. They called for greater efforts to stimulate global economic growth by finding solutions to the problems of high inflation, low growth rates, debt overhang and increasing trade protectionism. They also noted the increasing competing demand for capital and investment resources from Eastern Europe, from the indebted countries of Asia, Latin America and Africa, as well as to meet the needs of reconstruction in the Gulf and in the Soviet Union.

36. The Foreign Ministers reiterated the need to increase global savings to deal with the shortage of funds needed for reconstruction and structural adjustments. They agreed that this should be accompanied by effective utilization of funds to support well-designed economic policies and programmes.

37. On the external debt problem, the Foreign Ministers welcomed some progress made in resolving the debt crisis. Nevertheless, the Foreign Ministers viewed with concern the continuing high level of debt, which impinged on sustainable growth and development. The Foreign Ministers urged that a coordinated tripartite approach involving debtors, creditor countries and financial institutions be undertaken to speed up debt relief efforts and to allow for recovery to take place in the countries concerned. They took note of the recent write-off of bilateral official debts of selected countries and expressed the hope that they would be extended to the other indebted countries as well. They also recognized that indebted developing countries were dependent on agriculture. Therefore, in order to reach a permanent long-term solution, it was of utmost urgency that the markets for agricultural products in developed countries be liberalized.

38. The Foreign Ministers expressed disappointment over the failure of of the Brussels Ministerial Meeting to conclude successfully the Uruguay Round of the multilateral trade negotiations. Concerned with the slow pace of the resumed negotiations, the Foreign Ministers called upon all participants, especially the developed countries, to exert the necessary political will to ensure that negotiations get under way in a purposeful manner to enable their early and successful conclusion. They expressed the hope that there would be comprehensive and balanced results, which took into account the interest of all parties, especially the developmental needs and concerns of developing countries.

39. The Foreign Ministers reiterated that environment and development were interrelated and mutually reinforcing. Economic development was as much an inherent right of the people as it was a pressing responsibility for Governments in developing countries. The Ministers agreed that the measures for the protection of the environment should support economic growth and sustainable development.

40. The Foreign Ministers, in reaffirming their determination to work together for the success of the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, scheduled to take place in Brazil in 1992, stressed that any global initiative should be balanced in approach and take into account the interests of both developing and developed countries. The concept of equitable sharing of responsibilities and the ability of developing countries to respond to environmental challenges should be taken into account.

41. The Foreign Ministers called upon developed countries to give substantial assistance to developing countries by providing new and additional resources, and transfer of and access to environmentally sound technologies. They should also assist in ensuring a supportive international economic environment that would promote economic growth and development in developing countries.

42. The Foreign Ministers noted the dynamic performance of East Asian economies in an environment of declining global growth and increasing protectionism in the international trading system. They called upon East Asian countries to strengthen economic cooperation further and to increase interdependence among them so as to enhance trade and investment flows in the region, which would also contribute to global growth and development.

43. The Foreign Ministers expressed their view that the emerging global economic order must be one that provides for more equal economic opportunities for all nations, an important feature of which should be the strengthening of an open international trading system. The Ministers expressed their resolve to exert all efforts towards that end.

INTRA-ASEAN COOPERATION

44. The Foreign Ministers reviewed intra-ASEAN cooperation over the last year and welcomed the various measures, activities and programmes of action carried out by the ASEAN Economic Ministers and the Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry, Energy, Environment, Information, Labour, Science and Technology and Social Affairs. They also commended the continuing efforts and cooperation of the drug agencies and non-governmental organizations in ASEAN in combating drug abuse and illicit trafficking. Those activities clearly reflected the broad front of intra-ASEAN cooperation.

45. The Foreign Ministers noted that there now existed a growing awareness of the need for ASEAN to be a dynamic, vibrant and resilient organization in order to face the growing political and economic challenges of the 1990s. They took note that the twenty-fourth ASEAN Standing Committee had paid particular attention to that problem and welcomed the various efforts, measures and initiatives taken to meet that goal.

46. They noted, in particular, that a number of studies to strengthen intra-ASEAN cooperation had been commissioned. These included the review of the ASEAN-United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) technical cooperation programme; the study on ASEAN economic cooperation for the 1990s; the study of

the exclusion lists to enhance the level of PTA trade in intra-ASEAN trade, and the annual ASEAN macroeconomic outlook.

47. The Foreign Ministers also welcomed and adopted the recommendations of the ASEAN Standing Committee on the new criteria and the guidelines for the generation and selection of projects, which arose out of the study on the review of the ASEAN-UNDP technical cooperation programme. They were confident that a more ASEAN-centric approach would now be taken in project planning and formulation and that those projects would conform to the main themes of the human development of the ASEAN region's human resource potential and sustainable economic reform through the expansion and intensification of ASEAN economic cooperation.

48. The Foreign Ministers also endorsed the recommendation of the twenty-fourth ASEAN Standing Committee to establish an ASEAN cooperation unit in the ASEAN secretariat with the initial assistance of UNDP. They expressed their confidence that there would now be a more professional and integrated approach to the formulation and implementation of projects. They called on the twenty-fifth ASEAN Standing Committee to work out the details of its establishment as soon as possible.

49. The Foreign Ministers, in recalling the decision of the twenty-third ASEAN Ministerial Meeting to establish a panel of five eminent persons to look into the strengthening and the revamping of the mechanism and structure of ASEAN, in particular the ASEAN secretariat, expressed appreciation to members of the panel, headed by H.E. Tan Sri Muhammad Ghazali Shafie, for their report. They also expressed appreciation to UNDP for assisting in the study.

50. The Foreign Ministers noted that the report had been discussed extensively in ASEAN. They agreed that while many of the recommendations in the report merited full support and could be implemented immediately, there were certain aspects that needed further study. In view of that, they agreed that a working group be established under the chairmanship of Dato' Paduka Lim Jock Seng to study those aspects of the report which still need further deliberations, with a view to submitting its recommendations to the fourth ASEAN Summit.

51. The Foreign Ministers had an exchange of views on the future of ASEAN's external relations. They mandated the same working group under the chairmanship of Dato' Paduka Lim Jock Seng to study and make recommendations on the direction and form those relationships should take in future in the best interest of ASEAN.

52. The Foreign Ministers welcomed the opportunity provided by the informal meetings between the Foreign Ministers of ASEAN and the Deputy Prime Minister of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China respectively to have discussions on a wide range of issues. These discussions represented the beginning of a process of consultations between ASEAN and the two countries.

53. The Foreign Ministers noted that the proposed ASEAN treaty of economic cooperation had been considered by the Standing Committee, Senior Official's Meeting and senior economic officials and the Secretary-General. The Foreign Ministers, in considering the UNDP-assisted study on ASEAN economic cooperation in the 1990s, noted the report of the Secretary-General that the study would be finalized by 10 November 1991. In view of that, the twenty-fifth ASEAN Standing Committee was directed to consider the study for final submission to the fourth Summit in January 1992.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A FREE TRADE AREA

54. The Foreign Ministers welcomed as a matter for serious consideration the initiative of His Excellency the Prime Minister of Thailand, which was supported by the Honourable Prime Minister of Malaysia, that ASEAN move towards a free trade area by the turn of the century and agreed that the senior officials of ASEAN should undertake further study and discussion for submission to the forthcoming ASEAN Summit.

FOURTH ASEAN SUMMIT

55. The Foreign Ministers noted that, after consultations, the ASEAN Heads of Government had agreed to hold the fourth ASEAN Summit on 27 and 28 January 1992 in Singapore. They were of the view that it was timely to convene another summit to chart new directions to enhance intra-ASEAN cooperation. They directed the ASEAN senior officials and the ASEAN Directors-General to continue to work together with the senior economic officials in preparing for the fourth ASEAN Summit.

COOPERATION WITH DIALOGUE COUNTRIES AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

56. The Foreign Ministers expressed satisfaction at the progress of ASEAN's relations with its dialogue partners, namely, Australia, Canada, the European Community (EEC), Japan, New Zealand, the United States and UNDP. They continued to attach great importance to those relations, which had helped to create a special partnership in collaborative endeavours between ASEAN and the dialogue partners. They noted the new trend in ASEAN's dialogue relations from that of a donor-recipient to one of a mature and balanced relationship. They called for a further strengthening of the partnership for their mutual benefit.

57. The Foreign Ministers also expressed their appreciation for all the assistance rendered by the dialogue partners, in particular in the implementation of various projects. They also welcomed the flexibility shown by the dialogue partners in responding to ASEAN's changing priorities and in broadening and seeking new areas of cooperation. In this regard, they agreed that future activities should focus on human resource development, science and technology, trade, industry, investment and environment. They also noted that

the various consultative mechanisms that existed within the framework of those relations had proven particularly useful in raising issues such as market access, trade disputes and in the promotion of joint ventures and called for their continued use.

58. The Foreign Ministers were also pleased to note that the participation of the private sector in the dialogue process was accepted by nearly all the dialogue partners and that such participation had proven beneficial to all sides. They expressed the hope that the ASEAN private sector, for its part, would take full advantage of the opportunities now being offered and play its assigned role as the engine of growth in ASEAN.

59. The Ministers noted with concern the increasing tendency to link the issues of environmental protection and human rights to development and commercial cooperation. They stressed that those issues should not be used as conditionality for aid and development financing.

ELEVATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA TO FULL DIALOGUE STATUS AND ITS PARTICIPATION AT THE POST-MINISTERIAL CONFERENCES

60. Taking into account the very close economic cooperation existing between ASEAN countries and the Republic of Korea, the Foreign Ministers adopted the recommendation of the twenty-fourth ASEAN Standing Committee that the Republic of Korea be granted full dialogue status. The Foreign Ministers also agreed that consequent upon this decision, the Republic of Korea be invited to participate at the forthcoming Post-Ministerial Conference and at future conferences as a dialogue partner.

ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION COUNCIL

61. The Foreign Ministers expressed satisfaction with the results of the second APEC Ministerial Meeting held in Singapore from 29 to 31 July 1990. They reiterated that ASEAN's participation in the APEC process would continue to be governed by the principles they had agreed to at their last ASEAN Ministerial Meeting, held at Jakarta in July 1990. They also agreed that the issues concerning the Uruguay Round and trade liberalization measures remained the priority issues for them. They were of the view that there should be no proliferation of work projects and agreed that the ongoing projects should not exceed 10 in number at any one time so as not to dissipate the scarce resources available to them. They also affirmed that in the implementation of those projects due account had to be taken of the different level of development of the countries and that the developing countries of the region had to be given special treatment. They also noted that consultations were proceeding in finding appropriate modalities in bringing the People's Republic of China, Taiwan and Hong Kong into the APEC process and expressed the hope that the matter could be resolved soon.

EAST ASIA ECONOMIC GROUP

62. The Foreign Ministers considered the summary records of the first meeting of the ASEAN Working Group on the East Asia Economic Group (EAEG), which was held at Kuala Lumpur on 4 and 5 July 1991, and expressed satisfaction at the progress made in further studying the concept of EAEG. They agreed that there was a need to examine further and advance the proposal. In that regard, they decided that further meetings were necessary and that the second meeting of the ASEAN Working Group on EAEG should take place in Singapore and that the report of the meeting should be submitted to the Foreign Ministers and to the ASEAN Economic Ministers when they met at Kuala Lumpur on 7 and 8 October 1991.

TWENTY-FIFTH ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING

63. The Foreign Ministers agreed that the twenty-fifth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting would be held in the Philippines in June/July 1992.

64. The delegations of Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand expressed their sincere and deep appreciation to the Government and people of Malaysia for the warm and generous hospitality and excellent facilities and arrangements made for the meeting.

65. The meeting was held in the traditional spirit of ASEAN friendship and solidarity.